

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner's action of November 20, 2006, has been received and reviewed by counsel for Assignee. In that action, claims 1-23 were presented for examination. Claims 1-5, 9, 10, 12, 14, 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by *Zhang et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,292,401. Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 20, 21 and 23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but were indicated as having allowable subject matter.

By this response counsel has prepared claims which cover the allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner. In particular, claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 have been canceled and rewritten in independent form as new claim 24. Claim 24 is intended to correspond to former objected to claim 6 rewritten to incorporate the limitations of the claims from which it depended directly or indirectly, i.e., claims 1, 2, 4 and 5. Claim 3 was objected to as including an unclear limitation, and by this response claim 3 has been rewritten to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend from new claim 24. Claim 8 remains unchanged.

Method claim 11 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this response, claim 11 has been rewritten as claim 25 to incorporate the limitations of base and intervening claims 9 and 10. Claims 12, 13 and 14 have been amended to depend from new claim 25.

Method claim 20 was also indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this response new claim 26 is presented which corresponds to the combination of former claim 20 together with the limitations of base claim 15 and intervening claim 19. Claim 16, 17, 18, 21, 22 and 23 have each been amended to depend from new claim 26.

For the reasons discussed above, it is now believed that all claims presented for examination are allowable over the cited art, and in condition for allowance.

Appln. No. 10/618,564
Amdt. dated May 14, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 20, 2006

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-324-6303.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Colwell
Reg. No. 27,431

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
RCC:vap:ms
61051485 v1